

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of cleaning a filter clogged with flocculated materials, comprising:
adding a dispersing agent to break up said flocculated materials to form dispersed
5 precipitates; and
removing said dispersed precipitates from said filter.

10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said flocculated materials clogging said filter
comprises inorganic, organic or a mixture of inorganic and organic particles.

15 3. The method of claim 2 wherein said flocculated materials clogging said filter
comprises CMP processing solids, alone or in combination with other wastes, iron hydroxide
or oxide, surfactants.

20 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said dispersing agent comprises a polyacrylic
acid or a derivative of polyacrylic acid including acidic types, sodium salts, ammonium salts,
and amine salts.

25 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said dispersing agent is selected from a group
consisting of hydroxy-ethylidene diphosphonic acid, sodium
diisopropylnaphthalenesulfonate, and other water soluble dispersing agents.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said dispersing agent is hydroxy-ethylidene
diphosphonic acid.

25 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said dispersing agent is added at a
concentration from 10 to 100 ppm.

30 8. The method of claim 1 wherein said dispersing agent is added in a mixture
with an acid.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said mixture has a pH from about 2 to 4.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said dispersing agent is added in a mixture with an oxidizing agent.

11. A method of cleaning a filter clogged with flocculated materials, comprising
5 the steps of:

determining nature of said flocculated materials clogged on said filter;
adding a dispersing agent suitable to break up said flocculated materials to form dispersed precipitates; and

removing said dispersed precipitates from said filter.

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12. The method of claim 11 wherein said flocculated material is iron hydroxide or oxide and said dispersing agent is selected from a group consisting of hydroxy-ethylidene diphosphonic acid, sodium diisopropylnaphthalenesulfonate, and other water soluble dispersing agents.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said flocculated material is iron hydroxide or oxide and said dispersing agent is hydroxy-ethylidene diphosphonic acid.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein said dispersing agent is added at a concentration from 10 to 100 ppm.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein said dispersing agent is added at pH from about 2 to 4.